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Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 05201 280745Z

42
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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---------- 101705
R 272250Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5696

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 5201

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PE
SUBJECT: APRA SEES VELASCO IN DECLINE

REF: (A) LIMA 5132 (B) LIMA 5100

1. A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE VILLANUEVA WING OF APRA MET WITH EMBOFF JUNE 27 AND DISCUSSED REMOVAL OF NAVY MINISTER FAURA AS SEEN BY APRA. ACCORDING TO VILLANUEVA SPOKESMAN, FAURA, WHO WAS UNPOPULAR WITH NAVY, HAD PROMISED BETTER BUDGET FOR NAVY NEEDS. HIS RECENT ATTEMPTS TO INCREASE THE BUDGET WERE REBUFFED FORCEFULLY BY PRIME MINISTER MORALES BERMUDEZ. PERHAPS INTER-PRETING FAURA'S INABILITY TO DELIVER AS SIGN OFHIS LESS THAN SOLID SUPPORT AT THE PALACE, NAVY OFFICERS FELT THAT TIME WAS RIGHT TO OUST HIM.

2. RECENT ANTI-APRA SPEECH BY GENERAL FERNANDEZ MALDONADO (REFTEL B) WAS SEEN BY APRA AS A SMOKESCREEN PRODUCED IN HOPES OF DETERRING THE NAVY MOVE (SINCE NAVY CRISIS COULD BE VIEWED AS APRA INFILTRATION) AND MASKING GOVERNMENT DIFFICULTIES. THIS ATTEMPT FAILED AS NAVY PROCEEDED WITH ULTIMATUM THAT FAURA GO.

3. VELASCO'S PERFORMANCE AT TELEVISED SWEARING IN OF NEW NAVY MINISTER GALVEZ VIEWED BY APRA AS EVIDENCE OF VELASCO'S PHYSICAL DECLINE. THE COMPARISON WITH HIS
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PAGE 02 LIMA 05201 280745Z

JUNE 7 APPEARANCE, VELASCO APPEARED TIRED AND WORN. THE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

APRA REPRESENTATIVE OPINED THAT FAURA RESIGNATION HAS DE-
MORALIZED VELASCO AND WILL RESULT IN SOMEWHAT RAPID PHYSICAL
DETERIORATION. APRA MUST NOW SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY AND
STEP UP ITS WORK WITHIN THOSE ELEMENTS OF THE GOP WITH WHICH
APRA HAS MAINTAINED CONTACT.

4. COMMENT. TAPRS IS STILL ATTEMPTING PIECE TOGETHER STORY,
AND THE SCENARIO OF FAURA OUSTER AND FERNANDEZ MALDONADO
ACTIVITY MAY NOT BE TRUE TO EVENTS. IMPORTANT POINT IS APRA
VIEW (PERHAPS WISHFUL THINKING) THAT VELASCO'S HEALTH IS
DETERIORATING, THUS AFFORDING APRA AN OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE
ITS ACTIVITY.
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